

Amendments to the Drawings

Please amend Figures 4 and 5 as shown in the attached marked-up version of Figures 4 and 5 to show the addition of reference numeral 37.

A clean copy of the amended Figures 4 and 5 have also been provided that include the addition of reference numeral 37.

REMARKS

This Reply and Amendment is intended to be completely responsive to the non-final Office Action. Claims 1-22 are pending in this Application. Claims 5-7 and 16-19 are currently withdrawn, and Claims 1-4, 8-15 and 20-22 stand rejected. Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 16, 21 and 22 have been amended. Dependent Claim 15 has been canceled without prejudice to further prosecution on the merits.

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present Application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Specification Objections

In Section 2 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner stated the specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for “pin member, claim 15”.

The Applicants have amended the Specification to provide a replacement paragraph 0040 that adds “by a pin member 37”. The pin member was described in dependent Claim 15 of the originally filed disclosure, and shown in Figures 4 and 5 of the originally filed claims. Figures 4 and 5 have been amended to assign reference numeral 37 to the pin member as shown in the original Figures. No new matter has been added. The Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection to the Specification.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b), 102(e)

I. In Section 4 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 4, 8-10, 13-15 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 1197382 (“Renault”).

Claim 1 is in independent form and Claims 4, 8-10, 13, 14 and 20 depend from independent Claim 1 (as amended).

Independent Claim 1 (as amended) is directed to an “attachment system for attaching a module to at least one rail” and comprises (in combination with other elements) an “axle coupled to the module for rotation about the longitudinal axis” and a “pin connected to the axle proximate a first end of the axle, the pin defining a longitudinal axis substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the axle” and a “handle pivotally connected to the pin for rotation of the handle about the longitudinal axis of the pin between a locked position and an unlocked position.”

Renault does not identically disclose the combination of subject matter recited in independent Claim 1 (as amended). The Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 (as amended) is patentable and that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has been overcome. The Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection, and reconsideration and allowance of independent Claim 1 (as amended) and dependent Claims 4, 8-10, 13, 14 and 20 as they depend from independent Claim 1 (as amended).

II. In Section 5 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 8-12, 15 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by EP 1197382 (“Schlecht”).

Claim 1 is in independent form and Claims 2, 8-12 and 20 depend from independent Claim 1 (as amended).

Independent Claim 1 (as amended) is directed to an “attachment system for attaching a module to at least one rail” and comprises (in combination with other elements) an “axle coupled to the module for rotation about the longitudinal axis” and a “pin connected to the axle proximate a first end of the axle, the pin defining a longitudinal axis substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the axle” and a “handle pivotally connected to the pin for rotation of the handle about the longitudinal axis of the pin between a locked position and an unlocked position.”

Schlecht does not identically disclose the combination of subject matter recited in independent Claim 1 (as amended). The Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 (as amended) is patentable and that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) has been overcome. The Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection, and reconsideration and allowance of independent Claim 1 (as amended) and dependent Claims 2, 8-12 and 20 as they depend from independent Claim 1 (as amended).

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

I. In Section 8 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner rejected dependent Claims 2 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Renault in view of US 6,921,118 (“Clark”).

Dependent Claims 2 and 12 depend from independent Claim 1 (as amended). Independent Claim 1 (as amended) recites a combination of subject matter that the Applicants respectfully submit is patentable in view of the cited references, as described above. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and reconsideration and allowance of dependent Claims 2 and 12 (35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 4).

II. In Section 9 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner rejected dependent Claims 3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Renault.

Dependent Claims 3 and 9 depend from independent Claim 1 (as amended). Independent Claim 1 (as amended) recites a combination of subject matter that the Applicants respectfully submit is patentable in view of the cited references, as described above. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and reconsideration and allowance of dependent Claims 3 and 9 (35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 4).

III. In Section 10 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner rejected dependent Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Renault.

Dependent Claim 3 depends from independent Claim 1 (as amended). Independent Claim 1 (as amended) recites a combination of subject matter that the Applicants respectfully submit is patentable in view of the cited references, as described above. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and reconsideration and allowance of dependent Claim 3 (35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 4).

IV. In Section 11 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner rejected independent Claims 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,789,832 ("Gort et al.") in view of either Renault or Schlecht.

Independent Claim 21

Claim 21 (as amended) is in independent form. Independent Claim 21 (as amended) is directed to an “attachment system for attaching a module to at least one rail” and comprises (in combination with other elements) a “latch device having a handle pivotally movably about a pin defining a first axis substantially parallel to the rail” with “the pin connected proximate one end of an elongated member” and “the elongated member coupled to the module for rotation about a second axis, the second axis being substantially perpendicular to the first axis” and “at least one projection extending from the elongated member proximate an opposite end of the elongated member and movable between an unlocked position with the projection extending parallel to the recess and a locked position with the projection extending perpendicular to the recess when the elongated member is moved between a first position and a second position.”

An “attachment system for attaching a module to at least one rail” having the combination of subject matter as required by independent Claim 21 (as amended), taken as a whole, is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Gort et al., alone or in any proper combination with Renault or Schlecht. The Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 21 (as amended) is patentable and that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) has been overcome. The Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection, and reconsideration and allowance of independent Claim 21 (as amended).

Independent Claim 22

Claim 22 (as amended) is in independent form. Independent Claim 22 (as amended) is directed to an “attachment system for attaching a module to at least one rail” and comprises (in combination with other elements) an “elongated member having a longitudinal axis extending perpendicular to the rail, the elongated member coupled to the module for rotation about the longitudinal axis” and a “handle pivotally connected to one end of the elongated member for rotation of the handle about an axis substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and parallel to the rail” and “at least one projection extending from the elongated member proximate a second end of the elongated member, the projection configured to releasably engage the rail when the elongated member is rotated about the longitudinal axis.”

An “attachment system for attaching a module to at least one rail” having the combination of subject matter as required by independent Claim 22 (as amended), taken as a whole, is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Gort et al., alone or in any proper combination with Renault or Schlecht. The Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 22 (as amended) is patentable and that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) has been overcome. The Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection, and reconsideration and allowance of independent Claim 22 (as amended).

* * *

The Applicants respectfully request examination and allowance of Claims 1-4, 8-14, 16 and 20-22. Upon allowance of a generic claim, the Applicants request consideration of the currently withdrawn dependent Claims 5-7 and 17-19.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone if the Examiner believes that a telephone interview or Examiner’s Amendment would advance the prosecution of the present application.

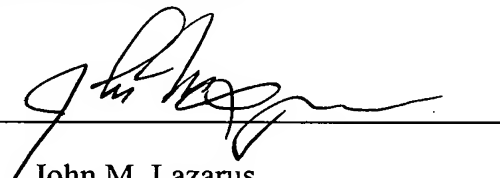
If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, the Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date June 27, 2007

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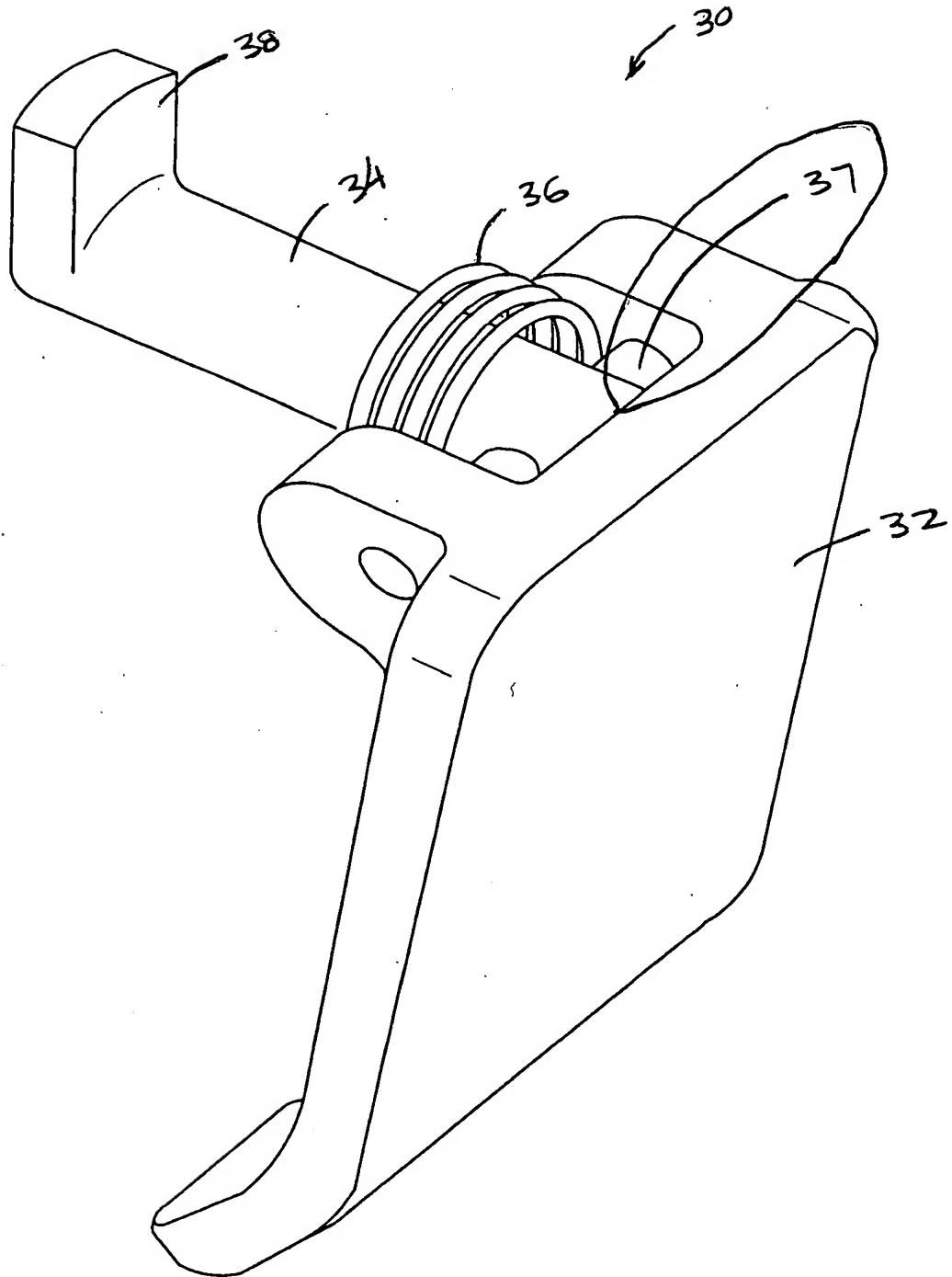


FIGURE 4

